

REMARKS

Claims 60, 62-65, 67, 69, 70, 79, 82, 83, 90 and 96 have been amended. Claims 61, 66, 68, 76-78, 80, 81 and 89 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 60-96 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Peterson, et al. (US 6,324,522) patent taken in view of the Wiecha (US 5,870,717) patent. Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 60, 67, 69, 70, 79 and 82, and with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 60, 67, 69, 70, 79 and 82 have been amended to better define applicants' invention and to better distinguish the present invention from the cited references. More particularly, applicants' independent claim 60 has now been further amended to recite a display control means for controlling display on display means of a combination of management items and data indicating status of the management items included in icons which are for discriminating the orders received or the orders placed, wherein the display control means controls displaying such as the management items included in the icon are not displayed, in case where the orders received or the orders placed are not in existence, and displays the icon. Applicants' independent claims 67 and 69 have been similarly amended.

The added features of independent claims 60, 67 and 69 are supported by the description in applicants' specification on page 37, lines 20-25 and FIGS. 8 and 9. For example, looking at FIG. 8, an icon (801) for discriminating an order received includes management items (803-809). In the case where an order received is in existence, the display control means displays the icon (801) and the management items (803-809) included in the icon (801). In such case, if orders placed are not in existence, the icon (811) for an order placed is displayed, but no management

data is displayed. FIG. 9 shows the opposite situation from FIG. 8, i.e., the situation where an order placed exists, but orders received do not. In this situation, the icon for the order placed is displayed as well as the management items (904-909) included in the icon. The icon for the orders received is also displayed, but no management items for the orders received are displayed.

Turning now to applicants' independent claim 70, it has now been amended to recite a first display control means for controlling a first display of a plurality of management items wherein the first display indicates current statuses of an order received and/or an order placed, and a second display control means for controlling a second display on the display means of data corresponding to the plurality of management items selected by the selection means in a form of a graph, which has a first axis for representing date, a second axis for representing the selected plurality of the management items and a third axis for representing the number of the orders received and/or the orders placed together with the management items controlled to be displayed by the first display control means. Applicants' independent claims 79 and 82 have been similarly amended. These added features of independent claims 70, 79 and 82 are supported by the description in the applicants' specification on page 46, lines 16-25, page 51 line 23 – page 52, line 11, and in FIGS. 14 and 17.

The constructions recited in applicants' independent claims 60, 67 and 69, and their respective dependent claims, are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Examiner has acknowledged that the Peterson, et al. patent does not disclose "an inventive concept of display control means for controlling display on display means, which determining the status of the order of a combination of an icon corresponding to a management item and data indicating a status of the management item represented by the icon." However, the Examiner then cites the Wiecha patent as disclosing such features. The Examiner then concludes

that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the inventive concept in Peterson, et al. to include Weicha's inventive concept.

Applicants note that the Peterson, et al. patent discloses a system for industrial maintenance repair and operating for parts and supplies. In this system, orders which a user has already placed to vendors can be checked using an Order Status function by clicking on the "Get Order Status" button. The Peterson, et al. patent also discloses that a separate page may be provided to display processed orders. Col. 35, lines 1-27. Additionally, FIGS. 14, 15 and 18 in the Peterson, et al. patent show processing for user placed orders to vendors.

In the Peterson, et al. patent display control for the contents to be displayed, e.g. management items, is not performed without selection of users. There is no active controlling of the display. Moreover, there is no processing in the Peterson, et al. patent to determine orders received or orders placed and based thereon to perform display control of the system actively.

Furthermore, there is nothing taught or suggested in the Peterson, et al. patent with respect to controlling the displaying of icons for discriminating orders received or orders placed and management items and data indicating status included in the icons such that the management items included in an icon are not displayed, in the case that the orders received or orders placed are not in existence, and the icon is displayed. Neither FIG. 15, nor the description, at column 23, lines 5-60, of the Peterson, et al. patent teaches such a construction.

The Weicha patent also fails to teach or suggest a display control means for controlling display on display means of a combination of management items and data indicating a status of the management items included in icons which are for discriminating the orders received or the orders placed, wherein the display control means controls displaying such as the management items included in the icon are not displayed, in case where the orders received or the orders

placed are not in existence, and the icon is displayed . More particularly, the Weicha patent discloses a system for purchasing goods using an electronic catalog on a computer network. The electronic catalog displays various goods as well usual catalog information on a computer screen. A buyer can select goods which should be ordered from the display of the electronic catalog, and vendors send acknowledgements and status messages to the purchase requirements of the buyer. A processing status based on the purchase requirements is updated and checked.

In the Wiecha patent, the display control is executed in accordance with the user's requirements. For example, at column 10, lines 38-44, of the Weicha patent the display control for updating the current status of POs or purchase requests is described.

However, in the case where an order is not in existence, the display controlling as to what is to be displayed on the screen is not disclosed. Thus, the Wiecha patent does not teach or suggest in such situation, i.e., where an order received or an order placed is not in existence, displaying the icon for discriminating the order, but not displaying the management items included in the icon.

Accordingly, the combination of the Peterson, et al. patent and the Weicha patent fails to teach or suggest a display control means for controlling display on display means of a combination of management items and data indicating a status of the management items included in icons which are for discriminating the orders received or the orders placed, wherein said display control means controls displaying such as the management items included in the icon are not displayed, in case where the orders received or the orders placed are not in existence, and displays the icon.

Applicants' amended independent claims 60, 67 and 69, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Peterson, et al.

patent taken with the Weicha patent.

The construction recited in applicants' claims 70, 79 and 82 is also not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. The Examiner has acknowledged that "Peterson et al fail to teach an inventive concept of display control means for controlling display on display means of data indicating the number of corresponding to the plurality of management items selected by the selection means daily data in a form of three-dimensional graph in relation to the selected plurality of management item together with the management of item controlled to be displayed by the first display control means". The Examiner, however, has argued that the feature of a three dimensional graph is disclosed by the Weicha patent, citing "abstract, fig 6, 7, and 12, column 2, lines 38-49, 10 lines 38-44)."

Applicants acknowledge that these figures and passages of the Wiecha patent do disclose displaying of various types of data. Thus, for example at column 10, lines 38-44, the Wiecha patent describes the ability of a user to check the status of current POs. However, there is nothing shown in these figures or described in the cited passages which teaches or suggests displaying the data regarding such POs in the form of a three-dimensional graph, as argued by the Examiner, let alone a graph which has a first axis for representing date, a second axis for representing the selected plurality of the management items and a third axis for representing the number of the orders received and/or the orders placed, and which graph is displayed together with the current status of an order received or an order placed.

Applicants' amended independent claims 70, 79 and 82, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Peterson, et al. patent taken in view of the Weicha patent.

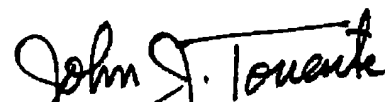
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably

distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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